

are our spiritual lives advanced by the observance of little duties and privileges enjoined upon the followers of Christ. Things that seem to us of so little importance and true merit, often assume a different aspect in the sight of the Master. We may become careless and negligent in entering our closets for secret prayer to God—we continue in this course for a time and ere we are aware the enemy has a firm grasp on our souls and many have been doomed to eternal death by the neglect of this simple service. We neglect to assemble in the sanctuary for a while and how easy to frame excuses for so doing, but how great our love in the end. Our desire to hear God's word proclaimed will eventually grow less as time rolls on, and unless we counteract our evil inclinations our future destiny will be determined at our own expense. We have a striking illustration of unfaithfulness recorded in God's word of the slothful servant. He was given but one talent, yet because of the neglect to improve it, he failed to receive the "Well done" accorded to his fellow servants.

God's word abounds in commands and precepts which are not so faithfully obeyed by God's children as they should be for a vigorous growth in divine life; "For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation." "Therefore be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

WHATSOEVER knowledge or work does not lead us to know Christ will prove worthless to our souls and perish. Other knowledge may vanish away, but the knowledge of Christ endures forever. Therefore the great Master himself has taught us that it is perpetual life to know God and him whom God hath sent—life to the brain, life to the heart, life to the life. There is no knowledge like knowing the crucified.—*Deems Birthday Book.*

He that envies makes another's happiness his torment; whereas he that rejoices at the prosperity of another, is a partaker of the same.

IN SEASON.

H. M. LICHTY.

This is the season of revivals. We glance over the pages of the EVANGELIST hurriedly and read frequently before we leave the post-office, with a real fervor, amounting sometimes to an excitement, of the conversions in the various churches. Being of a practical turn we note carefully the *numbers*, and then if it is not definitely named, we wonder if all were baptized, how many were heads of families, and, perhaps, secretly are anxious to know what position the accessions hold in the community. It is like the question that is frequently asked when the announcement reaches you of the marriage of an old friend at a distance, "Did he do well?" meaning is the bride wealthy. The fact is we are

TOO PRACTICAL.

These are wonderful days for rivalry and progress, and in our haste to reach the goal, there is no doubt that we frequently resort to means of which our Master does not approve. Looking to the faith or doctrine of the Brethren church one can not fail to realize the danger of being too practical. By this is meant here that there is certainly a tendency among our people to put great stress on our practice. We are sure that salvation comes only to those who *do* the works. This is a leading feature of the Dunkard faith into which so many of your readers were born. They are a severely practical people and hence place great stress on keeping the ordinances. There are passages clear and explicit beyond a doubt justifying our course in insisting on keeping His commandments. It is, however, enjoined equally as much that we abound in the spirit. That our conversions be a "change of heart." Some of our sister denominations lay so much stress on this feature of God's plan of redemption that, paradoxical as it may seem, it may be proper that they be classed as the

TOO SPIRITUAL.

The denomination known as Disciple or Christian holds the one extreme of being too practical, while the Methodists are too spiritual. Though strictly speaking this is true of neither of the denomina-

tions named, but rather should it be said that the former gives not sufficient heed to the spiritual work of Christ in his church and the hearts of his believing children, while the latter neglects to preach and advocate, to cherish and practice the ordinances and keep the commandments of God's house. Here are two great denominations making rapid strides in christianizing the world. While neither is radically wrong, neither is positively right. The tendency of the Brethren church is to drift into the error of the Christian church. This is written to call attention to this fact in a hope that the Brethren church may strike the golden mean. To this end may we labor. There is a great field—a great opening for the Brethren church. It lays in strictly carrying out the ordinances Christ laid down for his followers; but no less must we labor and pray and strive that we may ever abound in the spirit.

Wray, Col.

HEAVEN A PLACE.

Heaven is a state, and also a place, and ultimately, it will be more distinctly a place. Christ went away in the body, and a body must have a place; and he went away to prepare a place for us, not as spirits, but as body, soul, and spirit. When the child of God dies, where does he go? Absent from the body, present with the Lord. Christ did not die for the spirit alone, but for the body also; and he means to have a place for the individuality of the believer, that he may be where he is. This makes the ultimate heaven no longer a merely spiritual place, for it is as truly a place as this earth is a place. There will be a place for spirits if spirits want a place; but he has gone to prepare a place for us as body and spirit. Christ will come again in the body in which he went away, and our bodies too, will rise again from the dust. Christ will come again as a man to fetch us, and we shall be presented to him in all the perfection of manhood. The sweetest idea of heaven is that we shall be with Christ, shall see him, and shall be made partakers of his glory forever and ever.—*Spurgeon.*

CHARACTER is the measure of greatness.